

PATROL NEWS

November/December 2018

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



Cover story on page 3.

From the Staff ...

Major Malik A. Henderson
Support Services Bureau



As I write this, your command staff has just completed the annual troop meetings throughout the state. Much of what we share with all of you is mission related. It's important to update our employees on changes in our organization or the law, successes and challenges of the previous year, as well as expectations for the future. Troop meetings are also an opportunity for your command staff to convey to employees how vital they are to the Patrol's success. Every civilian and member employee's role is important in making Missouri safer, and to successfully meeting the needs of the public we serve.

It was good to see everyone. I hope all of you heard our message that you're appreciated. Your professionalism reflects well on yourself and this agency. Thank you for the work you do every day. Your command staff notices your hard work and appreciates it.

As another year comes to a close, let's continue providing the quality of service and protection our public expects. I hope all of you have a blessed holiday season. As you enjoy the traditions of your family and friends, please keep the families of our fallen heroes in your thoughts and prayers. Stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. A. Henderson". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing loop at the end.

The official publication of the
Missouri State Highway Patrol

Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News

PATROL NEWS

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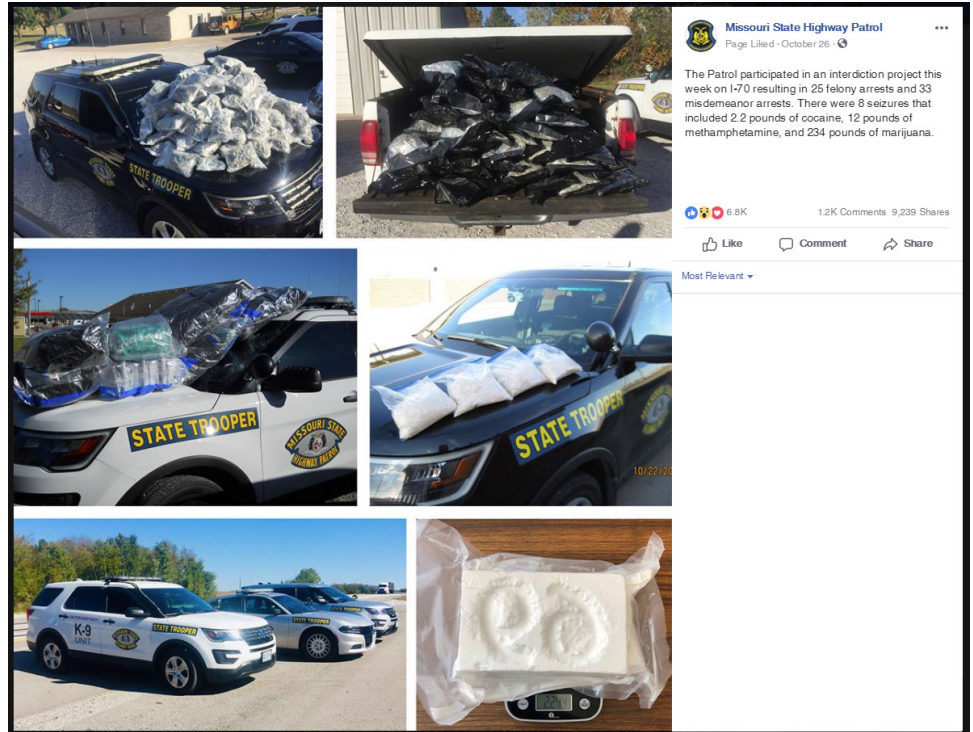
PATROL NEWS

November/December 2018

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

Volume 53 • Number 3

Social Media Snapshot



This post received a lot of attention. Take note of the 6.8K reactions, 1.2K comments, and 9,239 shares.

Cover

Hanging Around The Christmas Tree ...

K-9 Rony, Troop F, came to visit General Headquarters in December to take a look at the seasonal decorations and say hi to some fans. Rony, who is two years old, works with Tpr. Nathan D. Wallace, Troop F. They've been partners since May 2018. Rony specializes in drug detection, tracking, and handler protection. Tpr. Wallace says when Rony isn't working, he enjoys barking at the neighbors and long walks.

PERSPECTIVE

Trooper Reflects On Unexpected Honor

By Tpr. Todd B. Heintz, Troop H

I have been assigned to Troop H, Zone 3, for over 12 years. Since I began serving the area, the character and reputation of retired Sergeant Richard Dean “Sarge” Stratton has been second to none. He was nothing less than an icon in the area. Whether his reputation was inflated because of his involvement in a very famous case in Nodaway County I cannot speak to, as he retired approximately 11 years before I started with the Patrol. If you’re newer to the agency and haven’t heard the name, read the book and/or Google Sgt. Stratton. It will be time well spent.

I cannot say I ever knew him personally; only crossed paths with him here or there. Regardless, when hearing of his death, I was saddened as I was aware he had struggled with poor health for quite some time.

Out of respect for the memory of such a distinguished officer, I began

my shift early the day of his funeral and attended his farewell service in uniform. After arriving, Corporal Ben R. Hilliard, Corporal Chris J. Sullivan, both Troop H, and I were instructed to sit in one of three pews that were reserved. As we were seated, we observed the Troop H Honor Guard standing post on either side of Sgt. Stratton until the beginning of the service. What an appropriate display of compassion and respect.

The funeral director soon came and sat down by me. He explained the wishes of the family were to have any previous co-workers of Sgt. Stratton in attendance serve as pallbearers and any remaining vacancies be filled by current zone officers who would be working alongside him if he were working in the zone today.

Driving away after the funeral’s conclusion, the rain was slow and steady. The radio was quiet, allowing

me to reflect on the years gone by, and the years, Lord willing, to come. As I thought about the honor of being asked to be one of Sgt. Stratton’s pallbearers, I couldn’t help but think of the colleagues and coworkers I have the privilege of working alongside every day. Some are mere acquaintances. Others have become more than that. A handful have become as close as brothers. Pondering the day, I completely understood the sentiment and depth of the family’s request. Serving as an impromptu pallbearer alongside my two corporals for such an officer was one of the most unexpected honors in my career with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

I’m certain I speak for many Patrol employees in Troop H and across the state expressing sincere condolences to the family of retired Sgt. Richard D. Stratton. Words are not enough. What an incredible legacy.

Lake Hosts Annual Shootout Boat Race

By Lt. Mike A. Petlansky, Q/WPD

The Missouri State Highway Patrol permitted the annual Shootout Boat Race at Lake of the Ozarks on August 25-26, 2018. The participants competed for the fastest time in the 3/4 mile stretch of the 33-mile mark at Lake of the Ozarks. Changes to the race this year included extending the idle speed zone from the 31-mile mark down to the 21-mile mark. This measure provided

safer water for boaters to navigate, less property damage to docks, and fewer complaints.

The Highway Patrol received numerous compliments for the additional restrictions to keep our waters safer. This successful outcome would not have occurred without the public’s cooperation in complying with the extended idle speed zone and for our marine troopers’

efforts to be visible throughout the area.

This charity race brought a variety of events throughout the week to the lake and culminated with the races on August 25 and 26. Approximately \$200,000 was raised for charitable organizations that week. A portion of the proceeds supports the purchase of essential equipment for local fire protection districts at Lake of the Ozarks.

'Things Just Weren't Right'

Tpr. Rob Crewse Shares His Experience

By Tpr. Robert D. Crewse, Troop G

Have you ever wondered what a particular day might have in store for you? What a specific date might mean to you in the future? I have.

On July 17, 2018, I sat in my patrol vehicle at 4 p.m. having just ended my shift. As I began to close the programs I had open on my computer, I decided to prefill the next day's date in one of the many spreadsheets I keep, just as I have done numerous times in the past. I typed "07-18-18" into the spreadsheet and then repeated it in my mind several times. I thought, "Seven, eighteen, eighteen, that's an odd date." As I walked to my house, it ran through my mind, "seven, eighteen, eighteen." Strange as it may sound, I awoke the next day and thought, "Seven, eighteen, eighteen—what's in store for me today?"

For some reason, I was still thinking of that date. Needless to say, I made it to my patrol car that day and signed on as usual. I opened my computer and began starting all the programs I had closed at the end of my shift the previous day. As I opened the spreadsheet, I saw the date 07-18-18, and I again repeated it in my mind. I pulled from my driveway, not knowing that what I would soon encounter would positively, without a doubt, change my life.

As I began traveling toward the zone office to complete the never-ending cycle of reports, I came across one of my neighbors, a cattle farmer with a big grin and an endless supply of stories. I pulled to the shoulder and quickly struck up conversation with him about generally nothing. We laughed and talked about the "riff-raff" that continually drove up and down the gravel roads and the ways to combat the issues at hand. After resolving most of these issues, at least in our minds, and realizing that time had not stopped, we went our separate ways looking to complete the day at hand.

Once I was at the zone office, and actively hacking away at the mountain of paperwork that seemingly grew overnight, the office phone rang. I thought, "This can't be good. It's never good." I answered, and no surprise, Troop G radio was on the other end.

"It's a suspicious vehicle," they said.

I told them I was en route and thought, "All this paperwork, and I'll take an hour out of my day only to say, 'No locate' as I drive through the area." The suspicious vehicle was supposedly on Clouse Road, so as I began traveling north on Clouse, I again thought this will be short lived and I would soon be back at the office finishing my paperwork. However, as I rounded a corner, I saw a silver van with the hood up sitting in the middle of the roadway.

"How about that?" I thought. "It's just a stranded motorist; this won't take long." I informed Troop G radio that I was on-scene and the vehicle appeared to be broken down.

As I pulled to the rear of the vehicle, I noticed a white male exit the vehicle's driver side just as I activated my emergency lights. I exited my patrol vehicle with the expectations of handling this as routinely as any other stranded motorist call. So, I quickly struck up conversation with him about generally nothing; a pleasant conversation about what had gone amiss with his vehicle and what he needed from me to help get him on his way. This conversation resembled the one I had with my farmer friend earlier that day. However, anyone who has ever worked as a police officer, or who has had the training and experiences most Missouri state troopers do, understands when I say, "Things just weren't right."

As the totality of "things not right" began to add up, I eventually found myself looking down the barrel of my duty

weapon instructing the gentleman to keep his hands where I could see them and to get out of the vehicle in which he was now sitting. He would eventually come out of that vehicle, but not before making some very bad choices and changing his life, and mine, forever.

The world would be a better place if people would follow simple instructions when authority presents them with an option to cooperate. Lives would still be "normal." A certain date would not have such an imprint on our minds, like "seven, eighteen, eighteen" is now forever engrained in my mind. This date is a mark in time I cannot forget, the day that still sends chills up my spine, even as I sit here and type.

During my flight on the air-ambulance shortly after I had been shot in the head and the side, with blood covering my face and eyes, and sticking my lips together like glue, I was able to look out the windows of the aircraft and noticed the white fluffy clouds in the ever so dark blue sky. I could not help but think, "If today is my day, my last day on earth, at least it was sunny and nice out." Those thoughts ran rampant through my mind, before changing in nature, and thankfully diminishing over time. But, one thing has not changed ... "seven, eighteen, eighteen."

Yes, that date will always be prevalent in my thoughts. It's a day in time that could have had many different outcomes, struggles, and heartaches. But, as my wife says, "The what-ifs didn't happen, only the what-dids did happen, and we can't change those, so we deal with it." For whatever reason, God spared the shooter's life, the lives of three other officers on scene, and mine that day.

Continued on the next page.

— Crewse

Continued from page 5.

During our last troop meeting at Troop G on October 18, 2018, three months after my shooting, I listened to Major Vince S. Rice, Q/ASB, as he encouraged us to recruit others to work for the Patrol. Several years ago, I had been tasked with being a troop recruiter for Troop G, so at our break, I spoke with Major Rice about recruiting and how our efforts to recruit qualified personnel were changing due to the ever-changing world. At one point during our conversation, my shooting incident was brought up. I made the comment, with a laugh, that maybe I could use my experience as a recruiting tool. Major Rice just shook his head and insisted that this may not be the angle to take when recruiting new employees. I agreed.

However, after the meeting was over, I found myself face-to-face with an individual in the Troop G lobby who was asking questions about how to become a trooper. I steered clear of the shooting incident by explaining regulations, training, and expectations that go along with being a trooper. At one point I asked, "How does your wife feel about it?" He answered with, "She was fine with it 'til that trooper got shot north of Mansfield [MO]."

So, for the next 30 minutes or so, I explained how our training, in large part taught by officers who worked or currently are working the road, helped save my life by giving me the skills to overcome what potentially could have been a tragic incident. He agreed, shook my hand, and left with a smile. I hope to see him on the road someday protecting and serving as all troopers do.

Remember today, when you go to work, whether it be during the daylight hours or at night, no matter if it is sunny or raining: What happens could potentially change your life. If it does, let it be for the good. Climb that wall when you get there and then help put a smile on someone else's face. July 18, 2018, was my wall ... not the shooting, nor the suspect that committed the crime, not even that stack of never ending paperwork—it was that day.

I made it past it, and now I tell the story ...

Patrol History Trivia

This month's article is MSHP Memorandum No. 308. Written during World War II, it serves as a reminder of one way the war affected the agency.

use only. FORM S.H.P. 15 X12578

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jefferson City, Missouri
September 22, 1943

Subject: MEMORANDUM NO. 308

To : TROOP COMMANDERS

1. Since it is practically impossible for us to buy new cars as replacements for our Patrol cars, arrangements have been made with the Highway Department Garage at Jefferson City to completely overhaul any of our cars. The garage can overhaul a car on an average of about one every ten days.
2. Troop Commanders are to furnish this office as soon as possible a list of cars needing an overhaul, listed in the order of greatest need or importance. Troop Commanders will be informed sufficiently in advance of the time when one of their cars will be overhauled to permit the car to be brought to Jefferson City.
3. Due to the shortage and difficulty in obtaining repair parts, it is necessary that cars be handled in such a manner as to prolong to the utmost their condition of good repair. It is imperative that cars which have been overhauled be broken in as follows: Not over 25 mph for the first 100 miles. Add 5 mph for each additional 100 miles until the car has been driven 700 miles. For the next 500 miles, the car must be driven under 60 mph.
4. Our attention has been directed to the fact that springs on Fords should not be oiled as a routine matter. Springs should be oiled only when a decided squeaking of the springs is present. Greasing of springs causes unnecessary wear on shock absorbers. Replacement shock absorbers are practically impossible to obtain.

M. Stanley Ginn
M. STANLEY GINN
Superintendent

MSG:vc
Copy to:
Troop A - B - C - D - E - F - Radio
GHQ
Dispatchers
Property Officer

GARAGE RECONDITIONS BEARCATS



Patrol Garage technicians sand and prepare Troop F's Bearcat for a new look.

Body Shop Technicians apply the new paint finish to Troop F's Bearcat.

The Troop F Bearcat is ready for service after being "reconditioned from turret to lug nuts," said Auto. Tech. Sprv. W. Cody Hargis, Q/FFD. "We had two full-time employees working 10-hour days, and three temporary employees assisting in the prep work. We will be reconditioning all of the Patrol's Bearcats." Age and time necessitated the updates which began Fall 2018.

It's Time To Have A Conversation

The Opioid Epidemic & Missouri

By Sgt. Shawn M. Griggs, Q/DDCC

There's a growing concern about the number of drug overdose deaths attributed to prescription opioid pain relievers and illicit opioids. Our law enforcement officers have found themselves, many times, on the front lines of dealing with this epidemic. We, as a nation, have an opioid crisis that has no boundaries. The Opioid epidemic affects all races and all socio-economic levels: your neighbor, co-worker, family member, or your closest friend. One in three Missouri families has been affected by this epidemic. Approximately three people die from an opioid overdose in Missouri every day.

To help educate the public and encourage those who need help to seek it, the Patrol has released two new brochures, "The Opioid Epidemic & Missouri" and "Substance Use Disorders: Are You At Risk?"

These brochures provide some hard truths and a list of resources. You can find both brochures on the Patrol's website under "Publications" then "Brochures," or ask your troop public information and education officer for a copy.

Synthetic opioids have become more prevalent and are a driving factor in the increase in overdose deaths. Names which have become more familiar include fentanyl and carfentanyl. This class of drug encompasses both prescription opioids and illicit opioids, including pain pills, heroin, and fentanyl derivatives.

The most commonly misused narcotics are prescription opioids, which are used to treat pain. Prescription opioids treat pain associated with common procedures (oral surgery, common sports or accidental injuries, and other conditions). Patients: Be aware that prescription opioids are synthetic heroin and must be taken according to your doctor's orders. Your prescription is for you; it's illegal to share your medication with anyone.

Some Hard Truths

Every day, approximately 134 people die in the United States from opioids (prescription and illicit) overdose. That's one person every 10 minutes.

Since 2010, this public health issue continues to kill more people per year than motor vehicle crashes.

In addition, 4,000 people misuse prescription pills or take someone else's prescription pills for the first time each day.

Currently, for every 100 people in Missouri there are 80 prescriptions for opioid painkillers.

The United States accounts for five percent of the world's population; however, Americans use 80% of the world's opioid painkillers and 99% of its hydrocodone.

Substance Use Disorders

A back seat to popular words like heroin and fentanyl is substance use disorders. There's a stigma associated with SUD and in seeking help or treatment. We don't talk about SUD enough. All of us can help: Know the risk factors for developing substance use disorders.

Risk Factors For SUD

- Chronic pain
- Easy availability
- Early experimentation
- Weak family relationships
- Behavior problems
- Victims of abuse
- Childhood trauma/neglect
- Genetics
- Poor self-concept
- Difficulties coping with stress

The list goes on ...

One of the greatest predictors of someone having an addiction later is EARLY USE! When someone experiments with harmful substances or illicitly obtained medications before their brain is fully developed, they are more

vulnerable to the negative effects. But, anyone can become addicted to prescription medication, regardless of age or risk factors.

Resources

If you need help, please reach out. If you know someone suffering from substance use disorder, talk with them, encourage them, share our brochures and the list of resources below:

Missouri Opioid Crisis

<https://opioids.mo.gov>

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

<https://health.mo.gov>
800-575-7480

MO-Hope Project

(for information about treatment or other resources)
MOHopeProject.org

SAMSA Helpline (24/7)

800-662-HELP (4357)

Contact your county's mental health crisis hotline.

The information shared here (and more) appears in the new brochures. Please share them with friends, families, neighbors, etc. There is hope and we can join the eight other states, who have started to see a decline in the number of deaths. The combination of prevention, education, enforcement, and treatment will raise awareness about the risks of opioid misuse. The collaboration of public health and public safety officials will empower people to make safer choices and, in turn, prevent substance use disorders and deaths due to overdose.

(Sources: MSHP Division of Drug and Crime Control; Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; National Institute on Drug Abuse; MO-HOPE Project; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

New Operators Graduate Training

Chief Train. Oper. Roger D. Martin, Q/CommD

Newly hired communications operators completed specialized training from August 27-September 14, 2018, at the Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City, MO. Students trained on the Computer Aided Dispatch system, which is used to document incoming requests for service, responder assignment, and actions or activity regarding these incidents. They completed the 40-hour APCO Public Safety Telecommunicator Course detailing the general skills and techniques required, information on radio and telephone operations, as well as the importance of customer service, risk management, and other essential information. Each new operator also completed several written and practical examinations.

Communications operators complete an intensive initial training and evaluation program. The Communications Academy is normally completed within the first three months of their employment. Upon graduating, the students return to their assigned troop to complete on-the-job training and evaluation.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Communications Operator Trainee
Kristen L Bartles, Troop H

Communications Operator Trainee
Destini N. Best, Troop D

Communications Operator Trainee
Ellen L. Floyd, Troop E

Communications Operator Trainee
Tyler D. Kyle, Troop F

Communications Operator Trainee
Alicia D. Nelson, Troop H

Communications Operator Trainee
Melissa D. Shea, Troop F

Communications Operator Trainee Jeffrey Stokes, Troop I

During each Communications Operator Academy, an individual is recognized as the "Harry W. Duncan" Honor Graduate. Comm. Oper. Trainee Jeffrey



The communications operator trainees are pictured with three of their instructors: (back row, l to r) Ellen Floyd, Troop E, Comm. Oper. III Zachary Dykes (instructor), Troop D, Tyler Kyle, Troop F; (middle row, l to r) Comm. Oper. III Lori Downy (instructor), Troop B, Melissa Shea, Troop F, Jeffrey Stokes, Troop I; and (front row, l to r) Kristen Bartles, Troop H, Alicia Nelson, Troop H, Destini Best, Troop D, Chief Training Oper. Roger Martin (instructor), Q/CommD.

Stokes, Troop I, accepted this accolade, having achieved the highest overall score in academic and practical achievement for this Academy.

Please join the Communications Division in congratulating our graduates, and welcome them to the Missouri Highway Patrol family.

Comm. Oper. Trainee Jeffrey Stokes, Troop I, accepts the Harry W. Duncan Honor Graduate award from Director J. Corey Chaney, Q/CommD.



Never Underestimate Your Influence

By Sgt. Jason M. Pace, Troop D

The day-to-day tasks of a trooper may be filled with traffic/boating stops, investigating crashes, assisting stranded motorists, responding to calls for service, or answering questions from the public. Sometimes, with these continuous demands, we fail to recognize that even the smallest of tasks or our briefest conversations can make a significant influence and impression on the lives of others. Recently, the efforts of three Troop D officers showed how significant our actions can be and how we should never take our careers in law enforcement for granted.

On September 20, 2018, Corporal W.L. "Corky" Burr, along with a group of officers, were eating at a restaurant in Joplin, MO, when they were approached by a six-year-old girl, escorted by her aunt and uncle. After a brief conversation, the young girl not only left with a new T-shirt, but a life-changing friendship with Cpl. Burr. The aunt later posted the following statement on social media:

"My husband and I are raising my niece that is six years old. She has experienced tremendous trauma and is terrified of anyone that she thinks might be an officer, which we have worked hard to help her overcome. Yesterday, several officers walked into Chick-fil-A where we were having dinner. My niece was terrified and hid. While we worked on coaxing her out of hiding, our daughter approached the set of officers, asking if one would come meet her. After they finished eating, Officer Corky Burr approached our table. He handed my niece a T-shirt and asked to shake her hand. My husband and I are so appreciative of his kindness. A child that experiences traumatic situations takes many years to heal, and that one moment put a huge smile

on her face. Thank you, Officer Burr!!!"

On September 25, 2018, Sergeant Cort A. Stuart made a dream come true for an eight-year-old boy from Branson, MO. Zeke, who has battled cancer for over four years, told his father that he had always admired police officers and wanted to be a trooper. Sgt. Stuart made arrangements with his father to meet Zeke, show him his Patrol vehicle/equipment, and take them for a short ride along. Not only did Zeke get a chance to try out the siren and test out the radar unit, but

"Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch. For the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow."

Anonymous

more importantly, the time he spent with Sgt. Stuart will never be forgotten.

On October 15, 2016, Sergeant Shane R. Monk arrested a 19-year-old female subject in Greene County, after she was stopped for exceeding the

posted speed limit and displaying an improper turn signal on U.S. Highway 65. Following field sobriety tests, she was placed under arrest, transported to the Greene County Jail, and subsequently charged for DWI. Almost exactly two years later, Sgt. Monk received a letter from this individual:

Dear Officer Monk,

My name is Clarissa _____ and you arrested me for driving while intoxicated in October 2016. I am writing this letter to thank you for it. I know it's been two years and it's very random, but I saw a news article the other day that hit me kind of hard. A young woman was driving drunk and ended up taking the life of a young boy on his way to school. I realized that she and I made the exact [same] mistake, but because nobody stopped her, she's now going to spend a long time in jail. When you pulled me over, I was almost double the legal limit and attempting to make a three-hour drive from Springfield to St. Louis. There is no doubt in my mind that I would have been in her situation, if not a worse one, if you hadn't intervened. Thanks to you, I am now 21-years-old and attending _____ University with a major in criminal justice. Anything and everything I accomplish in this life is because you gave me the chance to. You saved a life that night and I am beyond grateful. I wish you and your family nothing but the best. Thank you for your service.

*Best Wishes Always,
Clarissa*

As we continue to serve and protect the citizens of this state, may we *never* underestimate our influence. The way we speak, the way we act, the way we carry ourselves, and decisions we make **do not go unnoticed.**



Sgt. Cort Stuart, Troop D, is seen here with his new friend, Zeke.

Sgt. A.K. Griffin Accepts DPS Award

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

Sergeant Aaron K. Griffin, Q/TND, accepted the Department of Public Safety's Employee of the Month award for September 2018. The recognition ceremony occurred September 21, 2018, at the Academy cafeteria.

Major Vince S. Rice, Q/ASB, served as emcee at the event. He read the nomination heralding Sgt. Griffin's tenacity in researching ways to improve training as it affects officer safety. His research showed the traditional approach to vehicle stop training was too basic.

Recognizing vehicle stops as a high-risk area of policing, Sgt. Griffin developed an in-depth, three-day course, "Armed Encounters & High-Risk Traffic Stops," to provide officers with the tactics needed to prevail in an armed encounter during a traffic stop.

Since implementing the new course, 42 officers have attended the training and more classes are scheduled.

"My eyes have been opened," said a student from the Patrol's St. Louis Special Patrol Unit.

Sgt. Griffin's commitment to officer safety and innovative thinking is resulting in a new course that will impact generations of officers.

"Great job, Aaron," said Major Rice. "We're proud of you. It is a tremendous course and we've gotten a lot of feedback about it."



After the DPS Employee of the Month award presentation, (l to r) Capt. Jerry West, Q/TND, Acting Superintendent/Lt. Col. Eric Olson, Q/ASO, Sgt. Aaron Griffin, Q/TND, Mrs. Whitney Griffin, DPS Director Sandra Karsten, and Major Vince Rice, Q/ASB, pause for the required photo.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric T. Olson, acting superintendent of the Patrol, also congratulated Sgt. Griffin. "Your development of this course is just one example of your dedication to the agency, as well as your team up here at the Academy. This is another fine example of what we have going on up here."

"All of our contributions to safety in the state of Missouri look different," said Director Sandra K. Karsten, DPS. "I know what you're doing ensures our people are being trained to keep them safe." The director also informed those present that the Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month award would be changing in January 2019. Instead of one award, there would be two: one for sworn officers and one for nonsworn employees.

Both Lt. Col. Olson and Director Karsten presented agency challenge coins to Sgt. Griffin along with the DPS Employee of the Month award.

"I feel like our officers that do the job should be receiving these awards, but I appreciate all of this," said Sgt. Griffin. "Anything I can do on a daily basis to improve officer safety is my intention. I wasn't the only one involved in this course. Lieutenant Kirk A. Davis, now in Professional Standards Division, and I got to asking about 'What do we do?' situations. We started asking how can we make things safer?"

"Aaron is a great instructor in the Training Division," said Capt. Jerry C. West, Q/TND. "One word I would use to describe him is innovative. You give him a problem to solve, and he will do what he needs to solve it."

Wilson, Talburt Honored For Heroism

By Sgt. Clark D. Parrott, Troop E

Corporals Jonathan T. Wilson and Shayne K. Talburt, Troop E, accepted the Department of Public Safety's October 2018 Employees of the Month award at their troop meeting. DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten, the Patrol's Command Staff, and Troop E employees were present.

"I am very proud of Cpl. Wilson and Cpl. Talburt for their heroic efforts," said Lieutenant Colonel Eric T. Olson, acting superintendent. "They are great representatives of a proud agency with a high expectation of professionalism."

The award recognized Cpl. Wilson and Cpl. Talburt for their actions on May 26, 2018. Both officers were patrolling the Current River in Ripley County when Cpl. Wilson observed a family in distress in the water. Their inner tubes, which had been linked together, had come loose and flipped over. All seven people – two adults and five children – were thrown into the water.

A five-year-old girl was tangled in a rope and appeared lifeless. The man was in distress after extricating a second child from a tangled root ball, which then broke loose, separating him from the children. The current had pulled the woman downstream, away from the group, and she was exhausted and in distress.

Cpl. Wilson began rescuing the children and called Cpl. Talburt for assistance. When Cpl. Wilson retrieved the five-year-old, she immediately coughed up water and began breathing on her own. Meanwhile, because of the weight and current, his boat was taking on water.

Upon his arrival, Cpl. Talburt took the five children into his boat, allowing Cpl. Wilson to travel downstream to rescue the two adults. The woman and her five-year-old daughter were treated at a local hospital. The mother is convinced the officers' actions saved



Major Greg Smith, Q/FOB, DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten, Cpl. Jonathon Wilson, Cpl. Shayne Talburt, and Lt. Col. Eric Olson, Q/SO, gather for a photo after the award presentation.

several lives.

Both Cpl. Wilson and Cpl. Talburt accepted certificates and challenge coins at the ceremony. Their names now appear on the DPS Employee of the Month traveling plaque.

"The quick response and actions of Cpl. Talburt and Cpl. Wilson saved the lives of five children and two

adults," said Lt. C. Mitch Heath, Troop E. "Without hesitation, both officers put themselves in harm's way to save others in a time of need. These two officers represent the Patrol's core values at all times. Officers like these make the Patrol what we are today. This award was well deserved."

Congratulations J.T. and Shayne!

Congratulations!

November 2018 State Employees of the Month



*Cpl. Shayne K. Talburt
Troop E*



*Cpl. Jonathan T. Wilson
Troop E*

Congratulations On Your Retirement!

Mark P. Belt
MVI III
Troop D

*Retired October 1, 2018.
17 years, seven months
of dedicated service.*



Juan O. Villanueva
Captain
Troop D

*Retired October 1, 2018
31 years of dedicated service.*



Ronald S. Johnson
Captain
Q/ASO

*Retired November 1, 2018.
31 years of dedicated service.*



Dean H. Milne
CJIS Trainer/Auditor III
Q/CJIS

*Retired November 1, 2018.
16 years of dedicated service.*



Jay A. Shirley
Corporal
Q/GD

*Retired November 1, 2018.
28 years, 10 months
of dedicated service.*



Darren E. Sigman
Corporal
Troop H

*Retired November 1, 2018.
26 years, 10 months
of dedicated service.*



Fleeing Suspect Drives Into Flood Waters

By Sgt. Jeff G. Noack, Q/AD

On October 12, 2018, Patrol helicopter 93MP and a flight crew consisting of Lieutenant Michael D. Hargus and Trooper Marcus L. Schlieff, both Q/AD, were assigned to a St. Joseph Police Department fleeing vehicle operation in Buchanan County. At approximately 1 a.m., a St. Joseph police officer attempted to stop a passenger car for a traffic violation. The driver immediately fled, but within minutes, the flight crew began tracking the vehicle with the FLIR camera. The crew provided valuable, turn-by-turn information to the ground officers, who followed at a safe distance without emergency lights and sirens. The driver drove through several neighborhoods and city streets in St. Joseph, often in the path of police vehicles and other drivers. Several evasive maneu-

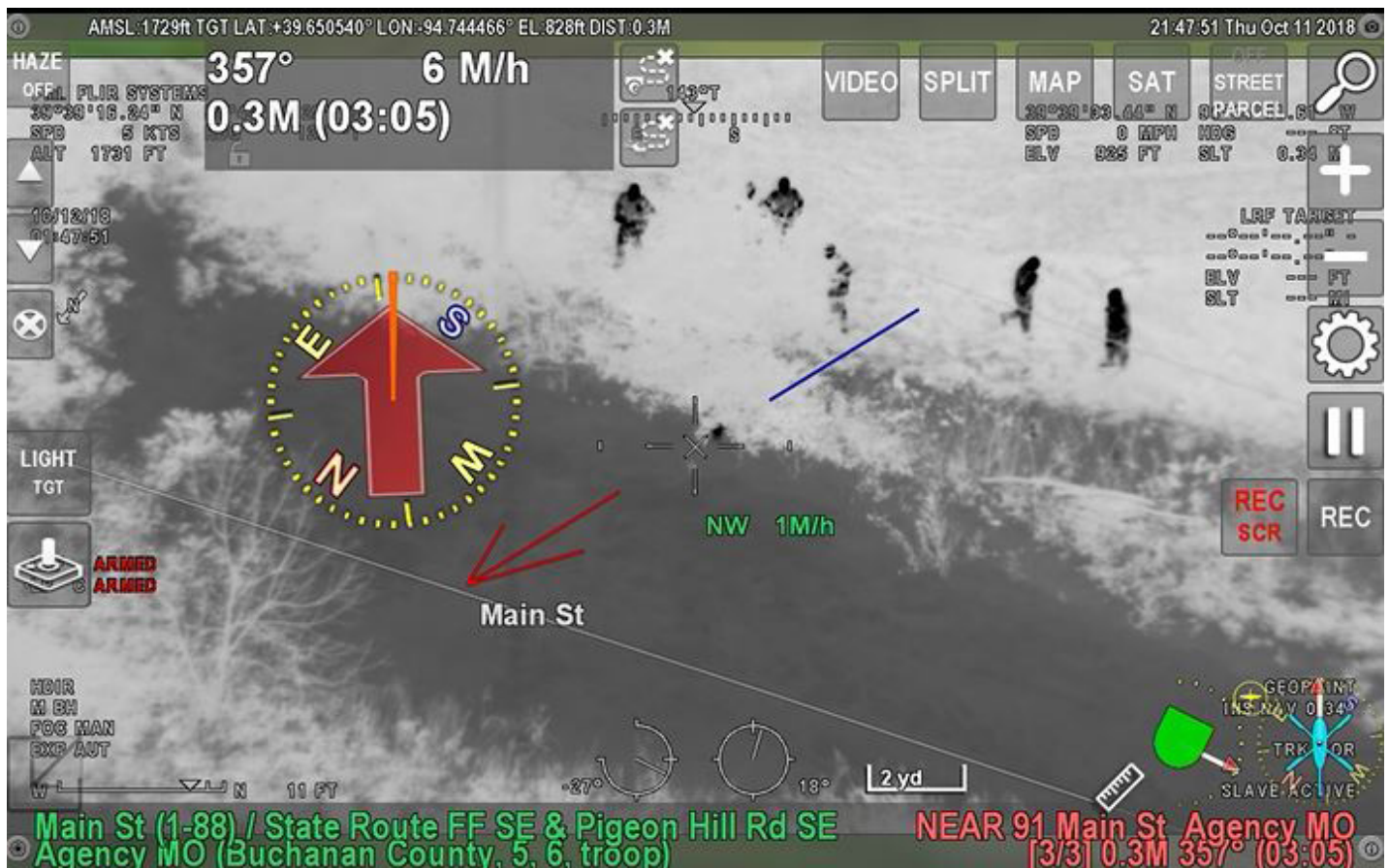
vers by the fleeing suspect, including shutting off the vehicle lights and dangerously driving the wrong way, were recorded by the FLIR camera as the helicopter followed. This chase eventually moved from St. Joseph to rural highways and into the small town of Agency, MO.

The driver then drove into flood waters from the Platte River where his vehicle became disabled. Still reluctant to submit to an arrest, the driver jumped from his vehicle into the cold river waters and swiftly moved to a place of concealment. Ground officers, with directions from the flight crew, moved into a safe, tactically advantageous position near the edge of the flood waters. Fortunately for the officers, the FLIR camera tracked precisely where the suspect was hiding, although he often revealed only his

head above the water line. His position in the dark waters kept him hidden from nearby ground officers for nearly 30 minutes.

When a canine unit arrived, the suspect surrendered and was placed into custody. After EMS treated him for cold exposure, the suspect was transported to jail to face several charges related to the pursuit, including a felony charge for resisting arrest.

The Patrol helicopter has participated in several fleeing vehicle operations this year in the St. Joseph metropolitan area. During similar operations across the state, the high definition camera and mapping system have been successful in assisting ground officers to safely apprehend those drivers who flee, thus reducing the danger to the public during vehicular pursuits.



In this screen shot from the helicopter FLIR camera, the suspect appears as a small black dot near the crosshairs (center of screen). He is hiding from officers in the flood waters and is obscured by trees.

Kimes, Pond, Windham Accept DPS Medals

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb, Q/PIED

Seventeen first responders and three civilians accepted honors on November 13, 2018, a day the governor proclaimed to be Missouri Public Safety Recognition Day. Governor Mike Parson presented the awards as Missouri DPS Director Sandra Karsten shared each account of service and bravery. Among the awards presented were the Medal of Valor, Public Safety Medal of Merit, Hall of Fame, Governor's Medal, and the Public Safety Civilian Partnership Medal.

Director Karsten served as emcee for the event, retired Sheriff Greg White provided the invocation and benediction, and the Troop F Color Guard provided the flag ceremony.

Friends and coworkers joined the recipients for the awards ceremony held in the Patrol's Law Enforcement Academy gymnasium. Director Karsten told the audience that the individual stories were different, but all the recipients distinguished themselves in serving others. "Public safety responders race into situations to help people they don't know to make us safer," she said.

"What you're willing to do most people don't want to do," said Gov. Parson, who also spoke during the ceremony.

"I believe there is goodness in all of us. Those we recognize today from the public sector are examples of that. Those in the public safety sector go to work every day and they are willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect all of us. Being a public servant is trying to help someone else. It is an honor and privilege to be here today as governor of Missouri to recognize what I consider true heroes."

Three recipients are members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Trooper Ryan J. Windham, Troop E, accepted the Public Safety Medal of Merit. This medal honors an individ-

Gov. Michael Parson presents a Governor's Medal to Tpr. Tyler Pond, Troop G.



Tpr. Ryan Windham, Troop E, accepted the Public Safety Medal of Merit from Gov. Michael Parson.



Gov. Michael Parson congratulates Tpr. Chris Kimes, Troop G.

equipment to stop the vehicle. The driver failed to yield, resulting in a pursuit. The vehicle exited the highway, and made a couple of turns before sliding off the roadway and coming to a stop. Tpr. Windham stopped his patrol vehicle and exited. A right, rear passenger exited the vehicle and began firing at Tpr. Windham. Utilizing his training, Tpr. Windham moved toward the rear of his vehicle and returned fire. Neither the passenger nor Tpr. Windham were struck in the exchange. A manhunt ensued during which the two passengers and driver were located and taken into custody. All three were convicted felons and members of a violent Southeast Missouri gang with outstanding warrants for their arrest.

Trooper Chris A. Kimes and Trooper Tyler D. Pond, both Troop G, accepted Governor's Medals alongside four firefighters with the West Plains Fire & Rescue. This medal honors an organized or ad hoc team of public safety officers for brave actions above and beyond the call of normal duty during a critical situation in which their teamwork was essential to the successful resolution of the situation.

On April 28, 2017, West Plains experienced record flood-

ing after over 10 inches of rain fell in a matter of hours. The floodwaters swept vehicles off roads, and homes and buildings off their foundations, and put many people at great risk. Responders' rescue boats capsized, were disabled, or could not be deployed because of treacherous conditions. The flooding quickly trapped resi-

ual's brave actions above and beyond the call of normal duty that play a critical role in successfully resolving a situation that endangers public safety.

On March 6, 2017, Trooper Ryan J. Windham, Troop E, was on routine patrol southbound on Interstate 57 near its intersection with Interstate 55. When he observed a silver Pontiac Grand Prix without a front license plate, he activated his emergency

Continued on the next page.

— Medals

Continued from page 15.

dents of the Country Meadows Trailer Park, east of West Plains. There were reports of a person having a heart attack and people on the roofs of trailers that were being swept away. Tprs. Kimes and Pond joined by West Plains Firefighters Shawn Bice, Chris Brockelbank, Jeremiah Jones, and M. Corbin Thompson decided to approach the trailer park from a railroad track on utility terrain vehicles. They cut through thick brush and then waded across a field in chest-high water.

Reaching the park, the four firefighters and two troopers' rescued three people who had been struggling to hold on in a trailer swept off its foundation and a woman who was experiencing chest pains and had to be carried to safety through the flooded field. The UTVs were used to transport the victims to waiting responders. A total of seven residents were rescued by the team working as one unit, overcoming floodwaters, floating debris, heavy rain, lightning, and many other challenges.

"We have heard stories of quick thinking under extreme pressure and daunting circumstances, of teamwork and selfless action to protect others.

Congratulations to all the award recipients. I thank each of you for your service. Thank you for inspiring us with your commitment to public safety. And, thanks also to our civilian award winners, who not only supported public safety responders, but bravely came to the aid of others," said Director Karsten at the close of the ceremony.

Note: To read the news release detailing the remaining awards presented visit the Missouri Department of Public Safety website at <https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/gov-parson-awards-missouri-public-safety-medals-first-responders-across>.

10 CVOs Commissioned

By Senior Chief Jeff Sims, Q/CVED

On Wednesday, November 21, 2018, 10 commercial vehicle officers were commissioned as part of the 7th Commercial Vehicle Officer class. The ceremony took place in the Waggoner Building's second floor conference room.

The new officers are part of a reclassification process that was approved in August 2018, by retired Colonel Sandra Karsten. The class consisted of eight current commercial vehicle inspectors that had prior police experience and currently held a Class A peace officer license, and two newly hired officers who previously had worked for other agencies. The training, which took place over a three-week period, consisted of firearms, defensive tactics, vehicle stops, and several classroom courses.

At the graduation ceremony, Lieutenant Kevin C. Kelley, Q/CVED, served as emcee and welcomed everyone. He expressed his appreciation for the sacrifice the officers and their families made for them to attend the training. Lieutenant Colonel Eric T. Olson, acting superintendent, addressed the graduates and their guests, stressing the importance of commercial vehicle enforcement to both the Patrol and the



Pictured are members of the 7th Commercial Vehicle Officer class: (l to r, front row) CVO I Paul Vandeventer, Troop E, CVO II Jason Lawrence, Troop H, CVO Sprv. II Mark Counts, Troop E, CVO II Donald Reilly, Troop A, and CVO I Carla Niekamp, Troop F; (l to r, back row) CVO I William Tull, Troop B, CVO II Steve Young, Troop E, CVO I Mark Lamphier, Troop A, CVO Sprv. II Brandon Whittington, Q/CVED, and CVO II Raymond Powell, Troop H.

public. Lt. Col. Olson presented each officer with their certificates and congratulated them.

Supreme Court Judge Mary Rhodes Russell administered the Oath

of Office and signed the new CVOs' commissions.

Congratulations, 7th Commercial Vehicle Officer class!

You're Invited!

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Annual Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at the Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center, Cape Girardeau, MO. The awards banquet is open to all The MASTERS members, MSHP employees, and their guest/spouse. In the past, the fee has been \$40 per person and we anticipate the same for this year. The banquet usually starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner, and then the presentation of awards. If you have any questions, please contact Desig. Prin. Asst. Kerry Bax at (573) 526-6159 or kerry.bax@mshp.dps.mo.gov.

Thank You

On behalf of my family, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Patrol employees, Patrol retirees, and members of The MASTERS for your cards, calls, words of comfort, and prayers following the passing of my dad and my mother-in-law. Your expressions provided comfort to our family during this time, and your kindness meant so very much.

*Ret. Desig. Prin. Asst. Carla
Bruemmer*



To our Patrol family who showered us with so much love and support upon the death of our mother/mother-in-law, Julie Hisaw: Thank you for reminding us that there is always sunshine after the storm has passed. Your kindness and generosity will never be forgotten.

*Technician III Chuck E. Davis
& MVI Analyst Brenda J. Davis
Q/CLD & Q/MVID, respectively*

Looking Back ... in the Patrol News

10 years ago

November/December 2008 — This issue announced the opening of Troop C, Weldon Spring. The Explosives Disposal Unit assisted the Missouri Department of Natural Resources by dispersing log jams caused by heavy rainfall. Troopers provided security and traffic control for the Tour of Missouri professional bicycle race. Trooper Richard A. Stewart, Troop D, led a procession down the newly constructed Missouri Route 249 as part of its dedication and opening.

20 years ago

December 1998 — CVO Sprv. I Steve D. Wilmesherr, Troop C, was celebrated as state employee of the month for October 1998 in this issue. Troop A's team dominated the Regional Ironpolice Competition in Lee's Summit, MO. The AAA Foundation donated a driver-ZED kiosk to the Safety & Education Center. An article announced the Patrol had promoted its first female CVO chief, Denise K. Henson, Troop C.

30 years ago

November 1988 — This issue's front cover photo showed what was at that time the second largest cocaine seizure in the United States. Trooper Jack McMullin, Troop D, stopped a vehicle for speeding on Interstate 44. After a consent search, 1,104 pounds of cocaine was seized, which at the time was valued at more than \$70 million. Members of the Patrol's first K-9 unit completed training.

40 years ago

December 1978 — The Academy held a "Speed Enforcement Workshop" to discuss ideas on enforcing the 55 mph speed limit. The first of 100 le Sabre Buicks arrived at the Highway Patrol garage. The Motor Equipment Division was busy filling 700 requests for snow tires. A new program for the agency, the division planned to order more snow tires the following year if feedback was positive. A new brochure entitled, "It Is Working" was disseminated to the troops. The brochure addressed the Patrol's responsibility regarding motor vehicle inspection and provided answers to common questions.

50 years ago

November 1968 — A \$25,000 federal grant resulted in a Type-Two Breathalyzer School taking place at the Academy. A story submitted by Trooper J.G. Mathews relayed his experience at a road block. He was stationed at Missouri Route KK and Missouri Route T during the investigation of the Puxico Bank robbery. He saw a rattlesnake crawling under his car and decided to wait for it to crawl out before approaching his car. Sometime later, he looked under the car and saw the rattlesnake coiled up underneath near the driver's side door. He'd left his keys in the ignition, and except for the driver's door, the vehicle was locked. After giving the situation "considerable thought," Tpr. Mathews determined he would have to "go up over the hood, around and over the visibar, and down through the open driver's side window" to gain access to his vehicle.

Deaths

Warren H. Hogan



Warren H. Hogan, 77, of Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, died August 20, 2018. Warren served as a trooper in Troop C from 1968-1972. He then went to work for the Crestwood Police Department, retiring as a sergeant in 1996. Warren became a telecommunicator in Troop I in 1996, and retired in 2001. Warren also served his country, both in the U.S. Navy (1959-1963) and the U.S. Army Reserves (1980-2000, retired). He is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. Per Warren's wishes there was a private memorial to place his ashes where he requested. Warren

also requested those who knew him to "just think of him or speak his name when they take an enjoyable vacation day or while fishing." He loved to go fishing. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hogan family.

Milton K. Muehring



Mr. Milton K. Muehring, 91, of Hannibal, MO, died Friday, August 31, 2018, at Willow Care Center in Hannibal. Milton served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. He joined the Patrol as a motor vehicle inspector in 1961, and retired

in 1989. Milton is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. To read more about Milton, visit the Smith Funeral Home & Chapel website at: <https://www.smith-funeralhomeandchapel.com/notices/Milton-Muehring>. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hannibal First Church of the Nazarene, in care of the Smith Funeral Home and Chapel. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Muehring family.

Willie D. Burke



Willie D. Burke, 83, of Cabool, MO, died September 5, 2018, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, MO. Willie joined

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:

CDL Clerk III J. Jeff Skidmore (A) - stepfather	Sgt. Brad D. Ussary (Q/DDCC) - father	CVO Sprv. II Louis G. McReynolds (D) - mother-in-law
Tpr. J. Michael Linegar (D) - mother	Ret. Lt. David R. Shaul - mother	CVO Sprv. II Gerry W. Johnson (H) - father-in-law
Ret. Desig. Prin. Asst. Carla J. Bruemmer - father, mother-in-law	Tech. III Chuck E. Davis (Q/CLD) - mother	Clerk Typist III Rhonda C. Bruemmer (Q/MVID) - sister
Cpl. Shayne K. Talburt (E) - grand-mother	MVI Analyst Brenda J. Davis (Q/MVI) - mother-in-law	Accounting Specialist III Chris M. Laughlin (Q/BPD) - sister-in-law
CVE Insp. II Elvin L. Bland (D) - sister	Comm. Oper. Trainee Kristen L. Bartles (H) - grandfather	DE II Ray Davis (F) - brother-in-law
Ret. Chief Tech. Terry L. Carroll - father-in-law	DE II Cathy Higby (C) - father-in-law	Cpl. J.R. Clint Gilliland (H) - grand-mother
Ret. CVO Sprv. I Tom W. Cross - mother	Comm. Oper. III Scott A. Miller (C) - wife's grandfather	Tpr. Amanda F. Sapp (B) - sister
	Ret. Cpl. Gary L. Zink - mother	Sgt. Glen D. Ward (Q/FOB) - father
	DE III Melba C. Warren (C) - father-in-law	
	Ret. CVO Sprv. II Douglas G. Storie - wife	

Deaths

– Burke

Continued from page 18.

the U.S. Air Force in 1957, and served four years. In 1965, he joined the Patrol as a motor vehicle inspector and served proudly until he retired in 1993. Willie is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. To learn more about Willie, visit the Elliott-Gentry-Carder Funeral Home website at: <http://www.egcfuneral-home.com/obituary/willie-burke>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Burke family.

Stanley P. Heckman



Stanley P. Heckman, 75, of Westphalia, MO, died Friday, September 7, 2018, at his home. Stanley served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1964-1970. He owned and operated CSH Trailers in Westphalia since 1991. Stanley joined the Patrol in 1968, working in the Information Systems Division until he retired in 1999 as a technical support manager. He is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. To learn more about Stanley, visit the Millard Family Chapels website at: <https://www.millardfamilychapels.com/obituaries/Stanley-Heckman/#!/Obituary>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Heckman family.

Howard J. Delcour



Howard J. Delcour, 89, died Monday, September 24, 2018. Howard joined the Patrol in 1951. He briefly left the Patrol to work for the U.S. Border Patrol before returning, then retired at the rank of captain in 1989. He served in Troop I, Troop D, and was the commanding officer of Troop I at the time of his retirement. The family held a private burial. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Delcour family.

Richard D. Stratton



Richard D. Stratton, 82, of Bethany, MO, died Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at his home. He joined the Patrol in 1962 as a member of the 25th Recruit Class and retired 33 years later as a sergeant. Richard is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Immanuel Baptist Church Building Fund in care of Roberson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 46, Bethany, MO 64424. To read more about Richard, visit the New-Press Now website at: http://www.newspressnow.com/obituaries/stratton-richard-d/article_5e0fc89e-f6ea-58a6-9e8d-c1d7acbe2a7d.html. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stratton family.

James O. Simpson



James O. Simpson, 76, died October 6, 2018. Jim served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1967. He joined the Patrol in 1979, and retired as a scale maintenance technician in the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division in 2003. He and his wife then moved to Port Charlotte, FL. Jim is survived by his wife, son, and many other family members. Those who wish may send a memorial to Tidewell Hospice, 1144 Veronica Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952. To read more about Jim, visit the Daily Journal Online's website at: https://dailyjournalonline.com/news/local/obituaries/james-simpson/article_13bf9795-948b-5642-90d4-7a3a5eb960a5.html. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Simpson family.

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov • Home Page: <http://www.mshp.dps.mo.gov>  www.facebook.com/motrooper

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@MSHPTrooperG @MSHPTrooperH @MSHPTrooperI @MSHPTrooperDDCC @MSHPColonel @MSHPRecruiting

Patrol Escorts Sailor Home

By Lt. Rick C. Fletcher, Troop A

On December 7, 1941, the battleship USS Oklahoma was stationary at port outside of the USS Maryland at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, HI, when it was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma suffered multiple hits, causing it to capsize. The ship lost 429 sailors and Marines, including Missouri native Seaman Second Class Harold Lloyd Head.

The remains of men lost aboard the USS Oklahoma were recovered in the days, months, and years following the attack. Ultimately, 35 were identified, and the unidentified remains were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific as "Unknowns."

A single casket associated with the USS Oklahoma incident was dug up from the National Memorial Cemetery in 2003. Permission to exhume the remainder of the graves was granted on April 14, 2015. From June through November 2015, United States Department of Defense POW/MIA Account-

ing Agency personnel, in cooperation with cemetery officials, exhumed all remaining caskets and transferred them to DPAA laboratories located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickman, HI, and Offutt AFB, NE.

On September 26, 2017, the DPAA released the Medical Examiner Summary Report and confirmed through DNA testing that the remains of U.S. Navy Seaman Second Class Harold Lloyd Head were recovered and identified.

Harold Lloyd Head was born October 10, 1921, in Browning, MO. He graduated from Laclede High School, Laclede, MO, in 1940, and joined the United States Navy that same year. His parents and three sisters are deceased, but he is survived by nephews, nieces, and extended family members.

On October 10, 2018, the day Harold Head would have turned 97 years old, a formal funeral procession escorted him from the Meyers North-

land Chapel in Parkville, MO, to the Laclede Cemetery in Laclede, MO, where he was laid to rest. Approximately 75 Patriot Guard motorcycles and 150 cars, led by Troop A Lieutenant Rick C. Fletcher and followed by Troop A Trooper Jared L. Dillon, served as escorts. Full military honors were conducted under the auspices of the United States Navy.

In addition to Troop A personnel, Troop H, Troop B, Parkville Police Department, Riverside Police Department, and Platte County Sheriff's Department assisted with traffic in their respective jurisdictions for the funeral procession. As we traversed through the numerous cities during the procession, I was deeply moved when I saw the overpasses and streets lined with United States flags and the first responders and citizens paying their respects to Seaman Second Class Head. It was an honor and a privilege to escort this serviceman home.